



CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES

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RACCOON LOGIC

BY ARTHUR LANE

JIMMY ALDEN felt a chill of fear run up and down his backbore and proble at the roots of has haw. He had refused to admit the facts until now, but there was no denying them any longer. Twe days without food! His storm child is if it had collerated

against his spine.
Here he was, deep in the
Adinondack forest, miles from
a houses habitation, and there
was that selfatime pool he had
seen four times ance morning?
Jimmy lay down and put
his lips to the cold, running

refreshing and seemed to give him new strength. But he needed to think and think hard.

It had all seemed so simple. With his study of the woods, and the various kinds of plant and animal life, he had had little difficulty vertices a term.

With his study of the woods, and the wanotis kinds of plant and animal life, he had had little difficulty getting a temporary appointment with the New York State Forest Commission, and its seemed to him that he was helping as much as he could to win the war.

Homory wes learn, One Ira

was nearly two inches shorter than the other so he walled slowly, and rested now and then, but he covered the territory thoroughly and well, or at least he thought he had covered it. Now he wasn't se were, for he had circled four times is one day! The night had been cold and Jimmy was chilled through in spite of his heavy, lined cost and high boots. He had slept in an evergreen thicket as the deer do, for protection. It had been dry, and screened from the mountain wind, but it was not like being imade.

he heard a call, "Ung-ha, Ungha" His head lifted expertantly and he heard it again, a little looder this time, "Aurighe, a-oughe" Jimmy aghrd and settled down to think again. It was just a bear, calling to its make somewhere in the brase thickets!

He was garing down into the pool. The pool wars't best, It was a landmark, if only ic. knew how to use it. All the stornes about being guided by the mosay sude of trees had gone wrong The mosa grow on the producted able of the trees. Sconetimes that was the south side—but sometimes it wann't. That was one reason he had

génein a circle.

It was a big pool perhaps
fifty feet across, and nearly a
hundred feet long. Maybe
there were fish in it. Funny
how such a hig pool would be
here frosh such a tiny little
stream of water!

The sun burst through the treetope and out a lacey pattern on the water. Jimmy jumped to his feet, aming,

again. Weanly, he put his head in his hands and nighted. What good dad it do to figure out which way was Essi, when he didn't know which way he wanted to go?

way he wanted to go?

He didn't know whether he was East, West, North, or South of the forest preserve states?

A SQUIRREL chattered in teeth in a free above his bead. A branch broke across the pend, and Jimmy looked up. Two mg-tailed receous were fishing along the bank of the stream. They didn't see how and the sat will fare matted.

He saw one day the jittle feet in the water and rell something over and over in the shallow edge of the pool. That made him remember that the raccoon sever eats anything until it washes it carefully! For a raccoon is one of the cleanest summiss in the forest.

The raccoon ate its tidely dainbily, then washed its pawe and padded on down the bank in its constant search for food. Watching it made Jimmy hunggier than ever Same people said raccoons were good to est, but he couldn't have esten one after seeing

Down the atre

feet and shouted at the top of his longs, be was so excited "Hurray!" He waved his arms and

stamped up and down. The den commotion made every hird stop its chirping, and

Here was a mystery solved, know how many weary miles

Inner lost. He would never be lost ngsin as long as he

cooms! He wished he could give them a present, but of

course that was impossible They had tought him the If you are lost, find water Water flows. Where does a And the tiny stream emptier gooner or leter into a buggers

stream; and that into a creek and finally the creek will empty into a river And a river will flow either into a lakeor into the ocean! But long before the stream

reaches a niver it will cross a Immy Alden's beart was

singing as he followed alone the bank of the good as the raccours had done. He found tiny waterfalls, through

He didn't mind the wet, or the cold anymore. His job that he feared was lost, was note again! He would report for duty.

CARTAIN MARVE maybe not today, but tomor-"Jimmy Alden reporting. sir," to the Forest Ranger, And

he would say nothing else. By late afternoon, Jimmy was following a fair-sized stream He was tired to the

from hunger It had seemed road, no bridge, no sign of a right, so he kept on, but his footsteps feltured.

time Suppose he were going on

JIMMY SAT DOWN to rest, not quite as sure of hours and. His stomech was

couldn't reason with it. now that the sun had desop-Dusk settled in the woods

that ran along the stream but even to climb the ridge and look If he lost his way now,

the other side. His bear

to the winding, sandy read. "Whos," The farmer slowed and stopped his team and

time o' might?" "I-I was lost," Jimmy edmetted. "Can you tell me how

"I reckon, Chmb up here."

"I went the one near Hales-

"Two days" Jimmy admitted. "I busily followed a

The farmer laughed and

"New on the sob nin't vo. "Yes. But how did you

keepin' ye a long way from either one! What you figured

structions, now that he thought

other chance, Maybe? Oh.

grinned for the first time in The End

















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